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Please amend **claim 18** as follows to delete "having spaced-apart structures" on **lines 6 and 7**, replace "depending therefrom, and defining an opening under the bed sized to pass" with --passing across-- on **lines 8 and 9**, delete "therethrough" on **line 9**, insert --fully-- before "extended" on **line 15**, delete "and the spaced-apart structures" on **lines 17 and 18**, and replace "gap, and at said second position the spaced-apart structures of the transport bed straddling the lower magnet pole, the patient transport" with --gap and-- on **lines 20-22**:

*30E1*  
 18. In an MRI system including an NMR polarizing magnet having opposed upper and lower horizontal poles defining a MRI image volume within a gap between the poles that is open about at least three sides,  
 5 the improvement comprising:

*D*  
a movable patient transport supporting a horizontal patient bed and passing across said lower magnet pole while interjecting the patient bed into said gap so as to permit substantially adjacent patient access  
 10 along a side of the patient while the patient is positioned within the MRI image volume,

*E*  
said patient transport having a first position wholly outside of the gap fully extended away from the NMR polarizing magnet, and at  
 15 said first position the movable patient transport being enabled to allow movement of the bed, and

*Ins. E1 E*  
said patient transport having a second position in the gap and being constrained to prevent movement with respect to said lower magnet pole during an MRI imaging procedure.

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Please amend **claim 19** as follows to replace "spaced-apart structures" with --upper and lower pole pieces-- on line 4:

19. A MRI system as in claim 18 wherein said movable patient transport comprises:

means for moving the patient bed in at least two dimensions with respect to said upper and lower pole pieces, while said patient transport is in said second position.

Please amend **claim 20** as follows to delete "having an aperture in an undercarriage disposed below the bed" on lines 4 and 5, insert --completely-- before "away" on line 6, delete "and undercarriage" on line 8, insert --across a lower pole face of the magnet and-- after "bed" on line 12, and delete "while moving said aperture therebelow over a lower pole face of the magnet" on lines 11-13:

<sup>sub 2</sup>  
20. A method for positioning a patient for MRI using an NMR polarizing magnet with a C-shaped cross-section, said method comprising:

placing said patient on a (movable bed while said bed is positioned completely away from the NMR polarizing magnet;

moving said bed above a floor towards said NMR polarizing magnet) and into juxtaposition with an open gap of the C-shaped magnet; and,

moving said bed across a lower pole face of the magnet) and into said open gap thus leaving unobstructed adjacent access to the patient along an entire patient

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body side while the patient is disposed within said open gap.

D 1  
cont.

Please amend **claim 21** as follows to delete "having spaced-apart structures" on **lines 6 and 7**, delete "from which the spaced-apart structures depend" on **lines 7 and 8**, replace "defining an open structure under the bed sized to straddle and pass" with --passing across-- on **lines 9 and 10**, delete "therethrough" on **line 11**, delete "the spaced-apart structures moving" on **line 17**, insert --moving-- after "bed" on **line 18**, and insert --fully-- before "away" on **line 19**:

sub E3

21. In an MRI system including an NMR polarizing magnet having opposed upper and lower horizontal poles defining an MRI image volume within a gap between the poles that is open on at least three sides,  
 5 the improvement comprising:  
a movable patient transport supporting a horizontal patient bed, (the movable patient support passing across said lower pole while moving the patient bed into an imaging position in the gap) thereby  
 10 permitting substantially adjacent patient access along a side of the patient while (the patient transport is positioned in the imaging position) and the patient is positioned within the MRI image volume, and  
 15 ( the patient bed moving between the imaging position and a displaced position displaced fully away from the upper and lower poles. ) NM

Please amend **claim 22** as follows to insert --completely-- on **line 6**, delete "having an aperture in an